

DECLARATION FOR PATENT APPLICATION AND POWER OF ATTORNEY

We, Dr. Klaus-Dieter Vorlop, residing in Braunschweig, Germany, and Maren Jekel, residing in Duesseldorf, Germany, declare that we are citizens of Germany and that we believe we are the original and first inventors of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled:

**Process for Producing a Polyvinyl Alcohol Gel and  
a Mechanically Highly Stable Gel Produced Thereby**

the specification of which is attached hereto.

We hereby state that we have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims.

We acknowledge the duty to disclose to the Patent and Trademark Office all information known to be material to patentability as defined in §1.56.

We hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, §119 of PCT Application No. PCT/DE99/00975, filed 30 March 1999, and which named the United States as a designated country.

There is no foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

We hereby appoint Robert E. Muir, Patent Office Reg. No. 23,017, Kevin M. Kercher, Patent Office Reg. No. 33,408, Richard J. Musgrave, Patent Office Reg. No. 44,960, telephone number 309-637-4900, and H. Frederick Rusche, Patent Office Reg. No. 45,061, telephone number 314-421-4800, my attorneys and/or agents, with full power of substitution and revocation, to prosecute this application and to transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected with this application. Please address all correspondence to:

Robert E. Muir  
Husch & Eppenberger, LLC  
401 Main Street, Suite 1400  
Peoria, Illinois 61602-1241

We hereby declare that all statements made herein of our own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements are made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Dr. Klaus-Dieter Vorlop

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Date

19.12.2000